

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

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DOS Review Completed.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

BRENT SCOWCROFT *B*

Secretary Kissinger has sent you the following report of his meeting with Chairman Mao.

"1. My two and three quarter hour meeting with Chairman Mao this evening was extremely positive, friendly and wide-ranging. Mao was very alert, incisive and wise. He sprinkled the conversation with his earthy humor and frequent hand gestures.

"2. He was extremely supportive of you and your policies. He made a special point of sending you his personal greetings in front of the Chinese press. His strategic perspective and attitudes toward specific regions and countries was along the compatible lines with which you are familiar. Your handling of the Middle East alert and your overall Middle East policy he considered of great strategic importance. He was scathing of opposition to you because of Watergate which he considered to be a meager, nonsensical incident blown out of proportion; and he pointed out that your domestic policies such as economic issues were going well. I explained domestic politics and said that you were sure to master the situation.

"3. The Chairman emphasized that it was objectively impossible for the United States to become isolationist. I assured him that the U.S. would continue to play a strong world role during your term and that future administrations would discover that we would have to be a responsible international power whatever their inclinations might be. We covered all the major areas of the world. With his customary frankness and long view he sounded

*ac Notes
Brent Scowcroft
shown to Henry
Harris 11/13/73*

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the themes of previous conversations. He stressed the importance of our maintaining a strong defense; urged close relations with Western Europe, Japan and the Near East-Persian Gulf area; and welcomed our Middle Eastern involvement on strategic grounds.

"4. These are the highlights of a most rewarding meeting, many of whose themes were previewed in a two and a half hour session with Chou just beforehand. I will send you another fuller report."

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